



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

Norman H. Bangerter
Governor
Kenneth L. Alkema
Executive Director
Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Director

288 North 1460 West
P.O. Box 144870
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870
(801) 538-6146
(801) 538-6016 Fax
(801) 536-4414 T.D.D.

*orig to W. Hedberg
for mine file
cc T. Mitchell*

M/035/009
RECEIVED

NOV 30 1992

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

**DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY**

November 24, 1992

Ms. Diane R. Nielson, Director
Division Oil, Gas and Mining
355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, UT 84180-1203

RE: Public Comments, Barney's Canyon
Mine M/035/009, Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Ms. Nielson:

This is in response to your October 21, 1992 letter to us that requested our review of the Sierra Club and Tame Tic Committees' concerns regarding expansion of the mine and its effects on ground water quality. We have reviewed the original NOI document dated February 13, 1992 and the revised NOI document of October 1, 1992 submitted by Barney's Canyon to DOGM.

In general it is our opinion those issues raised regarding ground water quality are now or will be addressed through the administration of the ground water quality protection rules and the discharge permit issued to the company. This applies to all the Barney's Canyon facility which is now permitted, and to proposals for expansion and future construction which most probably will need amended permits.

In reply to the Sierra Club's concerns, regarding possible ground water contamination below the Barney's Canyon mine, we offer this reply. The state now requires permits for activities that could potentially impact water quality. Barney's Canyon has been issued construction permits and a ground water discharge permit that contains requirements to protect water quality. The pads and ponds have liner systems, and Barney's Canyon has installed seven monitoring wells to detect changes in water quality and to ensure their facilities are operating as designed. They are required to monitor the pad and pond leak detection system daily, the wells quarterly, and to report the monitoring data quarterly to the Division. They have routinely reported the required information. To date, we have not received information suggesting the ground water has been impacted by the operations.

Ms. Diane R. Nielson, Director

Page 2

November 24, 1992

With regard to Tame Tics Committee comments regarding spills, these issues have been resolved with Barney's Canyon complying with our requests by double lining the pad margins. Also, monitoring wells as indicated above are in place and have not detected ground water contamination. The issue involving the storage of sulfide ore has likewise been resolved. The size of the stockpiles will only be allowed to increase from 285,000 ton to 290,000 tons. The stockpiles naturally develop a surface crust that excludes moisture. After encrusting, the company is required to spray the surface with a sealant. The company is required to remove the stockpiles by (a) removal by 1998 through processing for gold ore or (b) a date yet to be agreed upon for removal and burial if ore processing is not feasible. June 1993 is the date set for submittal of plans for either option.

Rapid action to problems is required by the permits, and we believe Barney's Canyon responses have been adequate when accidents have occurred. Also, Barney's Canyon has complied with all our permit requirements. By copy of this letter, we are advising the referenced groups of our reply. Should anyone have questions, please call Mack Croft at 538-6146.

Sincerely,



Don A. Ostler, P.E.
Director

DAO:MC:gt

cc: Dave Hodson, Barney's Canyon
Scott Endicott, Sierra Club
John Williams, Tame Tic Committee

P:\BCDOGMLIR
FILE:BARNEY'S CANYON